

CHAPMAN SUFFERS SKULL FRACTURE

Cleveland Shortstop Victim of Severe Injury When Hit by Pitched Ball.

YANKS' RALLY FALLS SHORT

Hugmen Make Belated Attack in Ninth Inning, but Fail to Overtake Indians.

LEAGUE LEADERS WIN, 4 TO 3

Coveleskie and Mays Pitch Good Ball, but New York Boxman Is Handicapped by Errors.

A ninth-inning rally, which shoved over three belated runs, wasn't quite enough to overcome the lead of the Cleveland Indians at the Polo Grounds yesterday afternoon, and the league leaders made their clutch on first place a bit firmer by winning, 4 to 3. The Yanks, after taking four straight from the Indians in Cleveland recently, played with neither the assurance nor the aggressiveness, which marked their work on that occasion, and, until the ninth, they were hopelessly deceived by Stanley Coveleskie.

Cleveland's victory was accompanied by a severe blow to their pennant chances, however, for in the fifth inning, Ray Chapman, the star of their infield combination, was hit on the side of the head by a swiftly pitched ball by Carl Mays and was so badly injured that it isn't likely that he will be able to play again this season. He suffered a severe fracture of the skull and an operation was performed at midnight.

The Indians' shortstop was the first batsman to face Mays in the fifth, and he was leaning over in a crouching position when Mays let one of his underhanded shoots loose. The ball hit Chapman on the left side of the head. The crack of the ball could be heard all over the stand and spectators gasped as they turned their heads away. The injured player dropped unconscious and a doctor was summoned to his aid. The player was partially revived after a time and attempted to walk to the clubhouse with the aid of two of his clubmates. But his legs doubled up under him again and he was carried to St. Lawrence Hospital at 457 West 163d Street.

May Hurt Indians' Chances.

The loss of Chapman may be a severe blow to Speaker's club, for he has been one of the most brilliant performers in the club's dash for the pennant. The only reserve infielders Speaker has are Lunte, an inexperienced youngster who finished the game yesterday, and Evans, who is not a shortstop.

Carl Mays wasn't very effective at the start and didn't settle down until Cleveland had piled up four runs. The assault on Mays started in the second inning, when Steve O'Neill banged a home run into the left field bleachers.

Ragged fielding by the Yanks and timely hitting by the Indians gave Cleveland a brace of runs in the fourth. After Smith had been thrown out by Mays, Larry Gardner drew a pass. O'Neill cracked a single to right centre and sent Gardner to third. Doc Johnston rolled a grounder to Peck, who threw home to head off Gardner. Ruel had the plate well covered and Umpire Connelly first waved the runner out, but declared him safe when Ruel dropped the ball.

This costly muff was followed by another error, when Ward failed to grasp Wambsgans's grounder, and the bases were filled. Coveleskie hoisted a sacrifice fly to Bodie and O'Neill crossed the plate. Ruel got dumped badly in trying to tag O'Neill at the plate and Wamby went to second and Johnston to third. Jamieson smacked a hot grounder at Mays, who recovered the ball after he had slipped on the wet turf and tossed out the runner at first.

The unfortunate injury to Chapman came in the fifth. The crowd of 22,000 spectators and the players of both clubs gasped when one of Mays's shoots hit the player in the head and knocked him unconscious. The injury was much the same as that which happened to Chick Fewster of the Yanks, who was hit by Ed Pfeffer of the Dodgers in Florida last March.

Lunte Takes Chapman's Place.

When the injured player had been carried to the clubhouse and play was resumed Lunte, Speaker's only utility infielder, took Chapman's place. Speaker forced him at second. After Smith had fanned Gardner slammed a hot bouncer, which Pipp knocked down, but did not recover in time to get the runner. Steve O'Neill then got his third hit of the matinee, a slashing single to right, which scored Speaker. Johnston forced O'Neill for the third out.

The Yanks were from the first under the spell of Coveleskie's spitball. Bodie got the first hit off the Cleveland Polanders when he singled to left in the third inning and went down on Ruel's sacrifice. Mays rolled to Coveleskie, who tossed to Gardner and Bodie was nailed going into third.

With one gone in the fifth, Pipp got a pass, and the crowd roared for some Yankee action. Bodie hit a long fly to Smith in right and Ruel poked a single to centre, placing Pipp on second. He didn't travel any more, because Mays fanned for the third out of the inning. Pratt opened the seventh with a single to centre, but Lewis, Pipp and Bodie went out in a jiffy.

After Ruel had fouled to O'Neill in the eighth, Sam Vick, hitting in place of Mays, singled to centre, and Ward cracked a long drive between right and centre. It looked like a safe smash, but Elmer Smith made a good catch after a hard run. Peck blasted all hope

when he forced Vick with a roller to Wamby.

It was an unusually uneventful day for Babe Ruth up to this point. The Cleveland flinger had the slugger well tamed and not once did he pretend to pass him. The big crowd groaned in the first inning when Babe struck out. In the fourth Ruth grounded to Johnston and in the sixth Wamby tossed him out at first.

Ruth was the first Yank up in the ninth, and a roar spread through the crowd as they yelled for the home-run king to paste the ball. Ruth broke through Coveleskie's spinners and jammed a single to right field. Coveleskie seemed a big upset and got wild and gave Pratt a pass. With the outlook a little bright for a rally, the multitude became stirred for the first time during the afternoon.

Duffy Lewis came within an ace of causing a panic when he clouted the ball high and far into left field. It was ticketed for the bleachers and the crowd was on its toes. On went the ball as Jamieson raced back for it, and, with his back jammed against the fence, he pulled down the drive. All that jubilation over nothing. It was hard on the vocal cords.

Pipp grounded out to Johnston, and a humiliating shut-out faced Huggins's lads. Bodie jumped into the breach and smote a mighty two-bagger against the right field wall close to the foul line, and Ruth and Pratt raced over the pan. Muddy Ruel kept up the good work, and, amid a scene of wild excitement, punched a single to left, and Bodie scored. The Yanks were now within a run of tying the score, and every mother's son in the lot was hopeful. Lefty O'Doul was inserted at this point to bat for Thormahlen, and the best he could do, with a hero's rôle staring him in the face, was to force Ruel, and the game was over.

The score:

CLEVELAND (A.)						NEW YORK (A.)					
	Ab	R	H	P	oA		Ab	R	H	P	oA
Jamieson,lf	5	0	2	1	0	Ward,3b	4	0	0	1	0
Chapman,ss	1	0	0	0	0	P'k'p'gh,ss	4	0	0	7	1
Lunte,ss	1	0	0	0	2	Ruth,rf	4	1	1	1	0
Speaker,cf	4	1	0	0	0	Pratt,2b	3	1	1	1	4
Smith,rf	4	0	0	2	0	Lewis,lf	4	0	0	0	6
Gardner,3b	3	1	1	2	1	Pipp,1b	3	0	0	12	0
O'Neill,c	4	2	3	8	0	Bodie,cf	4	1	2	4	0
Johnston,1b	4	0	1	10	1	Ruel,c	3	0	2	5	1
W'gans,2t	4	0	0	4	2	Mays,p	2	0	0	4	0
Coveleskie,p	3	0	0	0	3	aVick	1	0	1	0	0
Total....	33	4	7	27	12	Thormahlen,p	0	0	0	0	1
						bOdoul	1	0	0	0	0
						Total....	33	3	7	27	11

a Batted for Mays in eighth inning.

b Batted for Thormahlen in ninth inning.

Errors—Ward, Ruel.

Cleveland0 1 0 2 1 0 0 0 0—4

New York0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3—3

Two-base hit—Bodie. Home run—O'Neill. Sacrifices—Chapman, Ruel Coveleskie. Double play—Pipp (unassisted). Left on bases—Cleveland 6, New York 6. Hits—Off. Mays, 7 in 8 innings; Thormahlen, 0 in 1. Hit by pitcher—By Mays (Chapman). Struck out—By Mays 3, Coveleskie 4. Losing pitcher—Mays. Umpires—Messrs. Connelly and Nallin. Time of game, one hour and fifty-five minutes.

CONDITION IS CRITICAL.

Surgeons Remove Portion of Chapman's Skull to Save Life.

The operation on Ray Chapman was decided upon at 10 o'clock last night at a conference of several physicians, Manager Tris Speaker and Business Manager Walter McNichols of the Cleveland club. Chapman had been growing steadily worse during the evening and it was agreed that it would be unwise to delay the operation. Speaker had talked earlier in the evening over the long distance telephone with Mrs. Chapman at Cleveland and she left soon after for this city. With the injured man growing worse the decision was made to operate even before her arrival.

An X-ray photograph of the injury earlier in the evening had disclosed the fact that Chapman had sustained a depressed fracture on the left side of the skull.

The surgical work was in charge of Drs. M. J. Horan and T. D. Merrigan of the St. Lawrence Hospital staff. Drs. Joseph Cascio, A. A. White and J. E. Quinn were the attendants. Chapman was placed on the operating table at 12:30 o'clock and the operation required one hour.

Drs. Horan and Merriman reported early this morning Chapman's condition remained critical after the operation. The surgeons made an incision three and a half inches long through the base of the skull on the left side. They found a rupture of the lateral sinus and a quantity of clotted blood. A small piece of the skull was removed.

There is no disposition on the part of Manager Speaker or any of his players to regard the accident as due to the so-called "bean ball" because Carl Mays was the pitcher. The underhand pitcher has been accused in the past of resorting to this delivery, but he has shown no signs of such practice since coming to the Yankees, and the conditions which prevailed at the time of the accident yesterday satisfied all who saw it that was purely an accident.

Chapman was the first hitter in the fifth inning, and he was hit with the first pitched ball. He seemed to have been looking for a curve and did not make a move before he was hit. Then he collapsed. Chapman is one of the few players who find it difficult to avoid being hit by pitched balls, but up to yesterday he had not been struck on the head. He has been hit frequently on the arms and body.

Mays's version of the accident was that the ball was a "sailer." In the parlance of the diamond a ball sails when it breaks sharply on one side, due usually to a rough spot on the cover. Mays explains that he pitched a fast ball which took the unusual turn and struck the batsman. He asked for another ball before pitching to Speaker, who followed Chapman at the plate, and the ball which injured the Cleveland player was thrown out of the game.